

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, last night the House voted on Mr. PARKER of Mississippi's amendment No. 18 to strike certain provisions of the Interior Appropriations bill, H.R. 4193. These provisions direct the Indian Health Service to allocate contract support costs funding on a pro rata basis to all tribal contractors. I voted against that amendment in error. Removal of this provision is vitally important to the Tribes in my district and throughout the Northwest which are working to identify thoughtful, participatory solutions to an inadequate system of health care provision. I wish the record to reflect my support for the Parker amendment and the tribal self-determination it encourages.

ZLAN, LTD. DEVELOPS MAJOR ADVANCEMENT IN ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 1998*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the new high-tech firms in my district, Zlan, Ltd. of Wylie, TX, has come up with an affordable solution to a major cause of the loss of life and property in this country: electrical fires. Each year thousands of people die or are seriously injured and billions of dollars of property is destroyed because of electrical fires. I am told that Zlan's technology, properly installed in the home, can improve electrical fire safety by as much as one-hundred fold, dramatically reducing electrical fires.

This is not a new problem. As early as 1978, the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee found that "... often the dangerous malfunctions of these systems, which may lead to fire, takes place behind the walls of one's home over a period of time and finally fire erupts without warning. ... (I)t is essential that industry and government work together to find a solution to this problem."

In 1994 the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) asked Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to identify new technology products for reducing residential electrical fires. George A. Spencer, who is Zlan's founder and CEO, invented an electronic circuit breaker and has spent many years developing and improving this technology. Zlan, Ltd. began demonstrating prototypes of its Digitally Enhanced Circuit Breaker®, to the CPSC and UL. CPSC has indicated substantial interest in this technology.

Last spring Spencer and the Zlan team presented to the CPSC staff an update of their

electronic circuit breaker technology designed to detect arcing faults. Key features include:

Microprocessor controller for state of the art technology.

Arc detection to analyze low and high current problems in wiring.

False trip protection for routine power surges, i.e., motor start-ups, etc.

Auto self-test plus manual test capability.

LED status light for performance assurance and fault identification.

Serial Port options for remote monitoring, test and remote trip capability.

Zlan's Load Center Monitor works with the Digitally Enhanced Circuit Breakers to provide audible and visual indicators of faults, store performance data, identify causes of electrical malfunctions as well as communication capabilities to monitor electrical systems.

Zlan has entered into an agreement with STMicroelectronics, Inc. (ST) to manufacture a custom chip-set using Zlan's Arc Fault Interrupter (AFCI) technology that will provide a low cost solution to the circuit breakers manufacturers. Most homes can be upgraded to the new AFCI circuit breaker at a cost estimated to be as low as \$800.

This major advancement in electrical fire safety is expected to be on the market in time to meet new electrical building codes now being drafted.

Innovative use of new technology to improve flawed and dated technology has always been the hallmark of American ingenuity. I am extraordinarily pleased that the creative minds at Zlan have chosen to locate and build their business in my district to advance a promising technology that can save lives and give families the opportunity to make their homes safer places to live.

DISAPPROVAL OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR CHINA

SPEECH OF

**HON. CASS BALLENGER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 1998*

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, once again, legislation to overturn our current trade relations with the People's Republic of China has reached the House floor. This annual exercise divides our nation over our relationship with the most populous nation in the world. The only thing which has changed is the terminology. We now refer to Most Favored Nation (MFN) trading status as simply Normal Trade Relations (NTR), a more accurate description of this annual trade vote.

I will reluctantly vote against the resolution, Disapproving the Extension of Nondiscriminatory Treatment to the Products of the People's Republic of China (H.J. Res. 121), before us today. I do recognize China's deplorable record on human rights and our moral obligation to speak out for the weak and voiceless in China. However, in reaching my decision, I again asked myself these questions, "In the long run, will revoking China's trade status be good or harmful to the Chinese and the American people, and will it improve human rights in China?" I must conclude that revoking China's trade status would be counterproductive to these objectives.

As I have stated previously, the U.S. can do more to advance the cause of human rights

and foster religious, economic and political freedom if we continue to engage the Chinese in economic cooperation. Social freedom—like freedom of religion—are a direct result of economic liberalization. If we remove all of China's trade privileges, we are not only isolating that country, but we are losing any opportunity to improve the human condition there.

Terminating normal trade relations with China will hurt the American worker and consumer as well. From 1991 to 1997, U.S. exports to China rose 71% from \$7.5 billion to \$12.8 billion. In addition, exports of U.S. goods and services to China and Hong Kong support an estimated 450,000 American jobs. From an agricultural perspective, the American Farm Bureau has called China "the most important growth market for U.S. agriculture in the twenty-first century." The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that China could account for one-third of future growth in U.S. farm exports in the years ahead.

Despite my position on NTR with China, I remain concerned about allegations that the Clinton White House violated existing campaign finance laws by accepting illegal foreign contributions from China. In return, the Clinton administration sacrificed American national security by allowing the Loral Space and Communications Ltd. and another U.S. company to provide China's space industry with specific technological expertise, strengthening its nuclear and missile capabilities. I believe the Congress has an obligation to look into these critical charges, and I support all efforts to continue House and Senate investigations.

In conclusion, if we choose to cut off our ties with China, we end up harming those who need our help the most—the Chinese people. Just as important, we hurt American workers, farmers and businesses which would export to China, now and in the future. I urge my colleagues to vote down H.J. Res. 121.

IN HONOR OF PUERTO RICO ON ITS CONSTITUTION DAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the citizens of Puerto Rico on Constitution Day, July 24, 1998. The people of Puerto Rico established the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the very same reasons our forefathers wrote the Constitution of the United States of America, to establish themselves as a democracy.

The Puerto Rican Constitution ensures basic welfare and human rights for the people, ensconces the idea of a government which reflects the will of the people, and pays tribute and loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Puerto Rican culture is a distinctly unique culture. By pledging allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America, the people of Puerto Rico celebrate shared beliefs and the co-existence of both cultures. By ratifying their own Constitution, the people of Puerto Rico retain and honor their original heritage while expressing the desire to pursue democracy and happiness for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals for their contributions to

the Greater Cleveland community. Dr. Milagros Acevedo Cruz, Michelle Melendez, Mario Ortiz, David Plata, Raquel Santiago, Lydia Esparra, Orlando Salinas, Ana Garcia, Yolanda Perdomo, and Jundy Caraballo. I hope that my fellow colleagues will join me in honoring these individuals and praising the Puerto Rican people as they celebrate Constitution Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN S. BLACKMAR

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 1998*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the recognition of a Warren post office employee who was recently recognized as the Federal Employee of the Year in Rhode Island. Kathleen S. Blackmar was honored at the 27th annual awards ceremony held at the BankBoston Operations Center in East Providence by the Federal Executive Council of Rhode Island. She was nominated for the award by Warren postmaster Erick B. Lawson.

Kathy has become known as a very valuable asset to the Warren post office. In her job as custodian, she is responsible for making building repairs, performing janitorial duties, and assisting customers with lost or broken post office box keys. Her fellow workers share the belief that she has a work ethic that cannot be identified by level of job title. She has educated herself about boiler repair and diagnosis and she makes minor repairs to the office's fleet of vehicles. On top of this, Ms. Blackmar maintains and landscapes the grounds and clears snow. She readily has given her time to serve as coordinator for the Combined Federal Campaign, the annual drive for the contribution to community organizations. She has also coordinated the post office's Toys for Tots campaign and the annual "Christmas Wish List."

I am proud to recognize Kathleen Blackmar as an outstanding individual and to commend her for her contribution to public service.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL 100-MILE RELAY RECORD

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 1998*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of our colleagues the 30th anniversary of an extraordinary high school track and field record that still stands today. In June, 1968, eight members of Lockport Senior High School in Lockport, New York ran the 100-mile relay in a time of seven hours, 27 minutes and 53.6 seconds. This mark beat the previous New York State record by a beat nine minutes. It is also an astonishing 26 minutes 36.5 seconds faster than the existing world record as listed in the Guinness Book of Records. And that so-called world record involved 100 runners—not eight.

Members of the record-setting relay team, led by Coach John Chew, were Jim Rycyna,

Charlie Quagliano, Bob Brown, Brian Brooks, Jeff Helshoff, Frank Pfeil, George Bickford, and Jeff Watkins. Each of these student-athletes ran 12½ miles in spurts of 110 yards, 220 yards, and 440 yards. The overall average time was less than four minutes and 30 seconds per mile.

Mr. Speaker, the State of New York recently passed a resolution congratulating the 1968 Lockport High School relay team, and the Mayor of Lockport issued a proclamation commending their achievement. I too am pleased to recognize these eight men on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of their 100-mile relay record, and ask all Members to join me in congratulating them as they reunite this month to celebrate their tremendous athletic performance.

OUR WAR ON DRUGS BEST WEAPON: GOOD PERSONNEL—HELP, DON'T HINDER, OUR CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 1998*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I had the honor and privilege to speak to the National Treasury Employees Union and other national law enforcement groups. I outlined the successes that Customs employees have had in our War on Drugs and spoke of my opposition to H.R. 3809, which would undermine that success.

In my own district, Robert Hood, a Customs inspector, is considered one of the "Best of the West" in Operation Brass Ring, a concerted effort to increase drug seizures among all agencies policing the border. From February through June of this year, Robert lead the San Diego region in drug interdiction, seizing more than 8,745 pounds of marijuana and 11 pounds of methamphetamine. Robert Hood is joined by other heroes—in the San Diego Customs area, the valiant men and women policing the border have been responsible for nearly tripling the amount of cocaine and methamphetamine seized, while the number of seizures of marijuana have nearly doubled.

In just the past six months, Customs personnel have made an incredible impact on the amount of drugs getting to our streets and into our children's pockets! That is why the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the Border Patrol Council, among others, join me in opposing H.R. 3809 and asking those who support it, "What could you be thinking?"

The bill undermines the partnership that has flourished between Customs personnel and their managers in the successful drug interdiction efforts. It would restrict employees' rights to have significant input on safety issues—and it would cut their pay. How does cutting Customs employees' pay for working their regular night shifts help to bolster our War on Drugs? I simply don't understand it.

I support the provisions in H.R. 3809 that boost 1999 funding for Customs, and I urge the Senate and the President to also support an increase in Customs funding, while rejecting the provisions that cut Customs personnel negotiating rights and their hazard pay for essential nighttime shifts.

H.R. 3809 gives us tools to fight the War on Drugs, but puts those who will use the tools in straightjackets. We will lose the War on Drugs and waste taxpayers' money if we spend money on expensive, cutting-edge equipment at the same time we undermine employee morale and labor standards.

Listen to the partners in the War on Drugs—police officers know they cannot win the war if Customs efforts to keep drugs from entering the country are thwarted. I support the front-line soldiers in the War on Drugs—our Customs personnel—and urge support only for legislation that enhances, rather than detracts, from their good work.

IN HONOR OF DR. MARGARET STORTZ AND REV. VICTOR POSTOLAKI, MINISTERS OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 1998*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I share with you the accomplishments and religious commitment of Dr. Margaret Stortz and Rev. Victor Postolaki, who will be honored by the First Church Religious Science on Sunday, July 26 in Oakland, California.

Dr. Stortz will be stepping down as senior minister after 14 years and Rev. Postolaki, as assistant minister after 12 years of service. As ministers each has provided guidance and support to its congregants and the residents of Oakland and the East Bay.

As leaders of First Church, they encouraged community outreach on an economic level and have generated monies to assist the survivors of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, the Oakland Firestorm. Their fund-raising efforts such as the "Love Project" in conjunction with Allen Temple Baptist Church assisted in the rebuilding of the Black churches burned in the south, the North Dakota Flood, and the Mexico Earthquake. They have, through the church volunteer programs, arrange for the creation and distribution of grocery baskets and food vouchers for numerous economically disadvantaged families and organizations servicing this constituency.

They worked with Bay Area Ministries to make Oakland a better community for all its residents. Both were concerned about youth and were actively involved in programs that educated our children specially the teen empowering program serving the East Bay.

Dr. Stortz served as Assistant Minister in 1981 and as the senior minister since 1984. In 1983, she was elected President of the Northern California United Church of Religious Science. Over the years Dr. Stortz held numerous offices within the United Church of Religious Science organization as member of the International Board of Trustees and the President of the United Church of Religious Science.

Besides her ministerial duties she is an author and has an extensive list of works. Her written works include *Start Living Every Day of Your Life*, *How to Enjoy Life and Flight into Life*. She has produced *Seven Spiritual Laws of Success* based on Deepak Chopra's Book of the *You Prosper, We Prosper*—a 10-day